

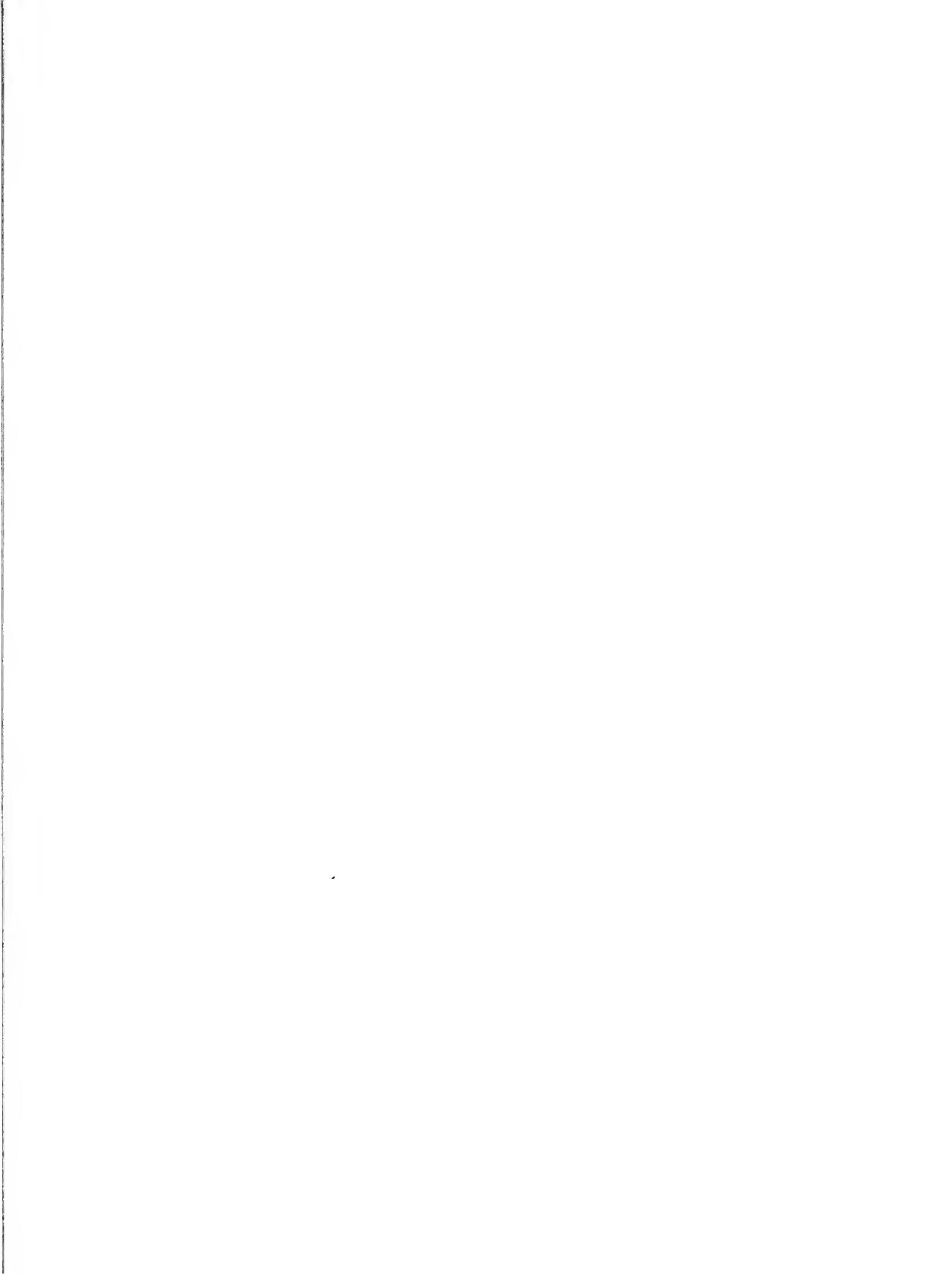






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# THE Valley®

Lebanon Valley College Magazine

## Don Byrne, Folklorist Teaching, a Family Affair Founders' Day Award



# THE Valley

Lebanon Valley College Magazine  
VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1  
SPRING, 1984

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## FROM THE EDITOR

### Premiere Issue of The Valley

In the last issue of the *LVC Journal* we asked readers for suggestions on how to improve the publication. After consulting readers' thoughtful responses and after much deliberation among the editorial staff, we are pleased to present *The Valley*, a quarterly magazine for Lebanon Valley College's alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff, trustees and friends.

The idea of a magazine is not new at Lebanon Valley College. In fact, the *Alumni Review* functioned in much the same way for twenty-four years prior to 1975. From 1975 to 1983, College news was distributed through the *LVC Journal*, a quarterly newsletter. Through careful selection of paper, design and printing, we are able to bring you this new publication at approximately the same cost as the *Journal*.

In searching for a name for the new magazine, we chose *The Valley*, which will, we imagine, mean something different to each reader. From time to time, *The Valley* will feature glimpses into the Valley of the past. But we will also show you what is going on at LVC now and what Valley people both on and off campus think about a variety of issues. We hope to introduce you to some new faces and re-acquaint you with some old friends.

Let us know what you think of our new venture. After all, *The Valley* is, most of all, your magazine.

**Dawn C. Humphrey**

## LETTERS

Dear Editor:

What a surprise to see the Hall family photograph in the Winter 1983 *LVC Journal*! If there are any unused or no-longer-of-use copies (glossy prints) of us, we would like to have one. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Gloria K. Hall  
(Mrs. Glenn Hall)

Dear Editor:

Your feature of Dr. Struble was outstanding. You have captured the soul of the great teacher I remember. As I was rereading your article . . . the picture of him reminded me of this little quatrain I wrote one day in English class. It is one of a number I wrote in the margins of texts or among my sometimes disconnected notes. I thought you'd like to see it.

Excerpt from "Scraps From a Student Notebook"

Armed he stood with open book  
From which he read poetic lore  
When suddenly, with raised arm,  
He leaped and cried, "Excelsior!"

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,  
Bruce Souders '44

**Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from the Thursday, February 9, 1984 edition of *The Daily News*, Lebanon.**

ANNVILLE—When his retirement as Lebanon Valley College registrar becomes official next Wednesday, Ralph Shay will be retiring to something, as well as from something. And it will just about be as he has planned it for quite some time.

Shay, a Lebanon County native and graduate of LVC, began teaching there in the history department thirty-five years ago, in 1948. There was a particularly hectic time almost twenty years later when, in 1967, he was named registrar while still teaching and serving as chairman of the history/political science department and serving as assistant dean.

One by one, he "removed a couple of my hats," as Shay puts it. But he still wears two—until next Wednesday, he still is both registrar and assistant dean of the college.

He and his wife Ellen own an 1896 house near Jonestown, surrounded by two acres of land. That very definitely will be one of the things retired to, Shay says with a smile.

"I'd like to be more of a gardener than I am now . . . and I have books on my shelves that I was given, or that I bought, over the years and—you know how it is—just never really read. So I have some reading time staked out."

Then, there's the Moravian Church of Lebanon, of which he is a trustee and past elder. There's the Lebanon County Historical Society, in which Shay is "an active member now and expecting to do a lot more from here on." He plays saxophone; his wife is a pianist. There will be more time to enjoy the instruments. And, Shay adds, "I'm also figuring on what you could call some scheduled, planned loafing."

His wife is recovering from cancer. Her illness curtailed the couple's traveling last year, but Shay says she is feeling well enough now so that there will be some trips in the future.

They'll be touring through New Eng-

land at times, for instance, but these will be modest trips for the Shays by contrast with the travels they logged in past years.

In 1963, Shay earned a summer Fulbright Grant that took him to the Far East. Four years later, he and Ellen repeated the trip on a more ambitious scale, taking in Cambodia, the Philippines, Bali and Singapore.

One result of both his travels to the Far East and his intense interest in the area is his membership in the American Association of Chinese Studies. In the early '70s, he was president of that organization, the first non-Oriental to hold the post.

How does he see China right now?

"I think trade between the United States and China definitely will be a benefit to both," Shay says. "As for power, though, China won't be a truly great power for some time. They're 'trying to become halfway modern,' but when Japan went that direction many years ago, China did not. The difference is very, very evident today."

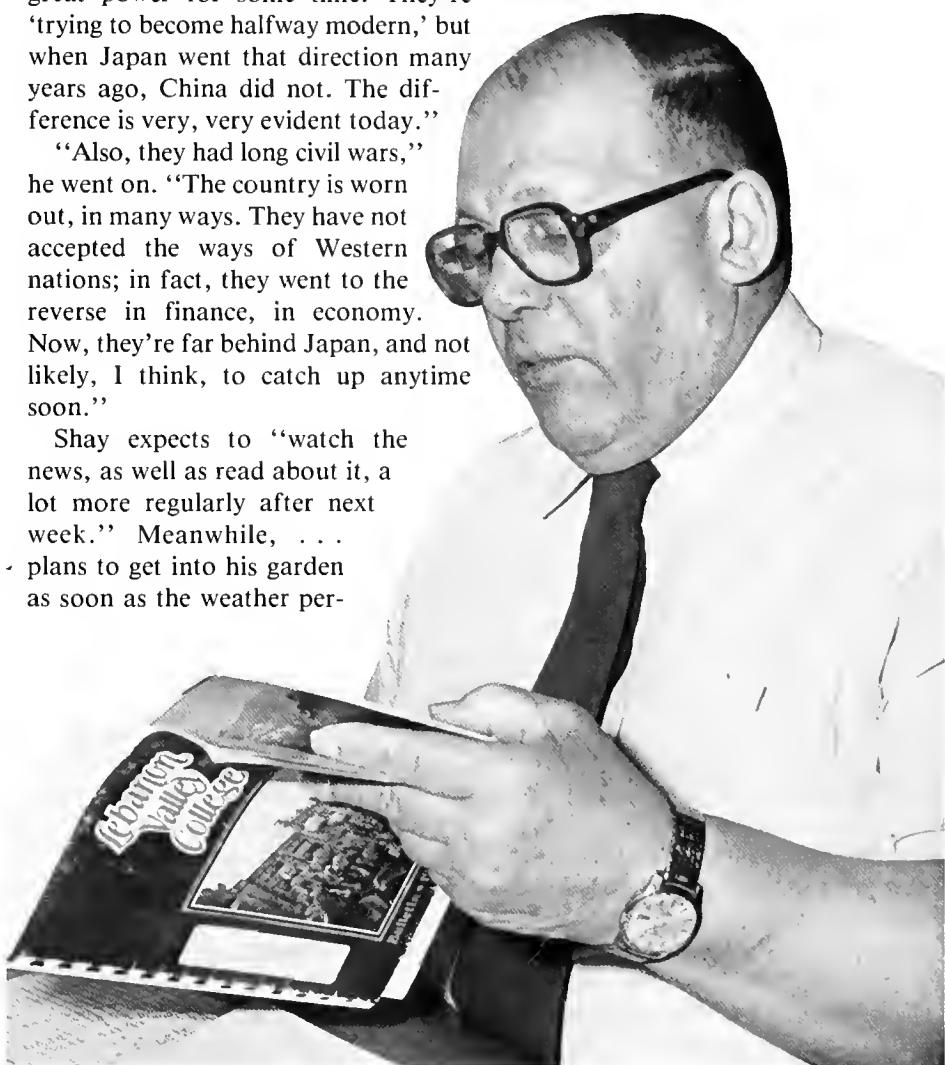
"Also, they had long civil wars," he went on. "The country is worn out, in many ways. They have not accepted the ways of Western nations; in fact, they went to the reverse in finance, in economy. Now, they're far behind Japan, and not likely, I think, to catch up anytime soon."

Shay expects to "watch the news, as well as read about it, a lot more regularly after next week." Meanwhile, . . . plans to get into his garden as soon as the weather per-

mits . . . and there's the church, the music, the travel, the books. He's almost beginning to wonder, just a little, if there'll be time for it all.

## A Man of Many Hats Can Hang A Few Up and Still Have Lots To Do

by Joy Owens, Staff Writer



# Tierney Brings Excitement to Women's Athletics

by Scott Dimon

There is a new excitement about women's athletics at Lebanon Valley College, and much of that excitement can be traced to Kathy Tierney's arrival on campus.

In August, 1983, Tierney accepted the position of women's athletic representative at LVC. In addition, she was named head field hockey and women's lacrosse coach. Her administrative duties include scheduling all women's athletic events, on-campus recruiting of all prospective women athletes, and recruiting for the field hockey and lacrosse teams. She also serves as hostess for all college guests at Wagner House.

Tierney, a native of Long Island, is a 1979 graduate of the State University of New York at Brockport, where she was a field hockey and softball standout. Among her many honors is the Henry Cooper Award, given annually to an athlete who exhibits athletic and academic success combined with outstanding leadership qualities.

She continued her athletic pursuits at Brown University, where she was an assistant field hockey and women's basketball coach, a position she held until coming to Lebanon Valley. Tierney says of the move, "A move from Brown was inevitable, the opportunity to be a head coach was very enticing, and LVC offered what I was looking for." She continues, "I didn't want to go just anywhere; academics had to be first priority." Tierney is confident that LVC can attract good women athletes because of its location and its academic reputation.

As women's athletic representative, Tierney says she would like to change the attitude toward women's participation in athletics and increase the number of women participating in the program. "There are a number of women walking around campus who could contribute to sports teams, but they don't come out."



She says, "By increasing the numbers, we could develop a junior varsity program, which would serve a two-fold purpose. First, the varsity would be a selection process and second, the less experienced athletes could gain valuable playing time which would in turn strengthen the varsity program."

Although her typical work day includes a large measure of administrative duties, Tierney is most visible as a coach. Her considerable coaching success may lie in her ability to motivate as well as to teach. One member of the 1983 squad says, "She makes you want to give the extra bit of effort. I'm looking forward to playing for her over the next couple of years." Tierney is confident and enthusiastic when describing the feeling among the squad, which this year achieved a 4-6-4 season, highlighted by a stunning 0-0 performance against national powerhouse

Franklin & Marshall.

She says of her team, "The athletes have the ability, but more than that, they have desire, cohesiveness, and the willingness to help one another."

"But," she is quick to add, "the women must be prepared to take the risk of getting better; they must develop training patterns that enable them to improve." Tierney sees a coach's role as a two-part responsibility to "allow the individual to develop positive qualities through athletics and to become aware of bad leadership and put an end to it."

Tierney's arrival at LVC appears to be at the right time, but one senior member of the field hockey team thinks it may have been just a little late. She said, "I'm glad I had the opportunity to play for her; I just wish I could be around for a few more years."

**Scott Dimon** is sports information director at Lebanon Valley College.



# Couples

The campus of Lebanon Valley College has been home to generations of students. Alumni parents and grandparents have watched their offspring walk down the same halls, sit in the same classrooms and even be guided through their college experiences by some of the same professors.

The shared experience includes husbands and wives who met at Lebanon Valley College and now find their children continuing the family college tradition.

This family experience does not stop at alumni or students. Included in the family tradition are married couples who currently are sharing the experience

of teaching at Lebanon Valley.

For Stephen Williams and Susan Verhoek, the idea of teaching together is what drew them to Lebanon Valley College. Both are botanists. Dr. Williams' field of expertise is plant physiology, the study of how plants function and grow. Dr. Verhoek's concentration is taxonomy, the classification of plants and their relationship to each other.

In 1973, while at Cornell University, the couple began searching for a team-teaching position. Williams was doing post-doctoral work at Cornell after receiving his Ph.D. at Washington University, and his wife was finishing

by Mary Lou Kelsey

her Ph.D. "Up there they were talking about ways couples could find jobs together because, at that time, especially in the sciences, the job situation was really closed down," Verhoek explained. "It was very hard to assume that we could both find jobs in the same area. One of the alternatives was to go someplace and share a teaching position," she says. "We wrote some letters proposing that as an idea."

"LVC had a position open at the time and they took us up on it. We actually share the teaching duties of one position, although we each have individual



appointments," says Verhoek.

"Since we are in different areas [of botany] we complement each other," Williams said. He also stressed the number of students they have been able to reach with this approach.

Reaching students is important to the team, and both agree that Lebanon Valley College provides a fine atmosphere for their work. "One of the big differences is that at a school like Cornell there is a graduate school with a whole population of older, specialized people who work in only one area. In some cases the undergraduates get lost. At a school like LVC the seniors are treated a lot like graduate students in terms of special attention and encouragement," Verhoek explained.

According to Williams, there is less pressure on faculty here to do research. "Many of us do research here," he said, "but it is not the main emphasis. We are primarily teachers, which benefits the students. But this can allow a faculty member to get behind in his field. You have to be more of a self-starter."

Publishing is important to the couple. "If you are a teacher you have a duty to let what you know or have learned be

known by more people, and one way to do that is to publish," said Williams.

Dr. Verhoek is co-author of a second edition of the book, *How to Know the Spring Flowers*, a guide to spring flowering plants east of the Rocky Mountains. She explained, "I had used the first edition of the book and discovered that it contained things I thought were not appropriate and could be improved upon. I wrote to the company and asked, 'Couldn't you get someone to do this?' They wrote back and said, 'Why don't you do it?'"

She has also written several articles based on her research, which has included identifying two plants never before described. One of the plants collected by Dr. Verhoek and colleagues is from the top of a road cut in the mountainous province of Michoacan in southern Mexico.

At the time it was collected the plant was not flowering, so, under collection and importation permission from the Mexican and United States governments, the rootstock was taken first to Cornell University and then to Lebanon Valley College. When the plant grew large enough and flowered in the LVC greenhouse, Verhoek recognized it as a new species.

The Mexican name for plants of this type is "amole." Verhoek named the new species *Manfreda longibracteata*, a Latin name, in accordance with botani-

cal practice.

The second of the plants had been collected in Texas by a retired Army officer, Major Arnold Siler, who did not recognize it as being new until Verhoek studied it and its relatives for her doctoral dissertation at Cornell. The species was named *M. sileri* in recognition of its collector.

During the 1982-83-academic year, Verhoek and Williams spent a sabbatical leave in Ithaca, New York. Verhoek was at Cornell's L.H. Bailey Hortorium, while her husband was at the Boyce Thompson Institute, Ithaca.

Verhoek explained that there is currently "... an international project to document all families and genera of plants on earth. It is a long-range project that will ultimately result in a multi-volume work," she said. She spent her sabbatical preparing a chapter for that work. The chapter is on the *Agavaceae* family. "Most people would probably know it as the yucca family," she said. It was on a part of this family that she did her doctoral thesis, she said, and both of the plants she has identified belong to this family also.

Her husband spent his sabbatical researching seed aging in soybeans. The purpose of the research was to try to determine the effects of aging on the seeds' ability to germinate, a topic of great importance to seed companies and farmers.

Dr. Williams also has done extensive research on nerve-like processes in plants, particularly in carnivorous plants such as the Venus flytrap. An article he co-authored on the Venus flytrap's closure mechanism was published in the December 3, 1982 issue of *Science* magazine. The article, featured on the cover of the issue, examines the chemical actions involved in the plant's leaf closure process.

Are there pressures involved in sharing the job at work and sharing the responsibility of raising a sixteen-month child? No more so than those encountered by any other two-career family. "One of the reasons we got married is that we enjoy similar interests," explained Verhoek. "We do a lot of botanical things together," she said, "such as taking walks in the woods and driving in the country. Some of our trips involve collecting material for our classes. Last

fall we drove around Lancaster County looking for tobacco fields where we might find material for Steve's plant physiology course, and in the spring we will need to find sites where my class can see flowers blooming. It's something we enjoy doing together."

"Often at a small school," she said, "there is only one botanist, which can be professionally lonely. But since there are two of us here, we can keep each other up to date." She explained that they even subscribe to different professional journals so they can share things they know would interest each other.

When Dr. Diane Iglesias and her husband, Dr. John Heffner, leave home for a day at work they head for the same campus, but not the same department. Dr. Iglesias is chairman of the foreign language department, while Dr. Heffner is an associate professor of philosophy.

Iglesias received her Ph.D. from the City University of New York. The Long Island native came to Lebanon Valley College eight years ago from Wilson College in Chambersburg. "Wilson was a women's college, and I very much wanted to teach in a coeducational college. I also liked what was going on in the department at LVC. There were more options as far as types of courses to be taught. In other institutions you have to wait a long time to teach upper division courses. Professor Cooper, the chairman who hired me, said there was a real possibility of reaching the advanced courses immediately."

According to Iglesias, foreign language is again in the forefront of education. "It went down in the age of permissiveness. When students in English classes read popular novels and comic books instead of learning grammar," she said, "foreign language was perceived as something challenging at a time when it was wrong to force students to do something challenging. Things have changed. As a country, we cannot afford the luxury of not speaking other people's languages from both the business point of view and the cultural point of view."

Iglesias is also encouraged by the way foreign languages are being taught at Lebanon Valley College. "We have a unique program here. We don't have the traditional translation approach or the purely literary approach. In each

language we teach culture and literature. This allows us to use literature as another vehicle for expressing and teaching the culture and as an excuse to converse as the native would. We consider topics that would be interesting to the native."

"When I was in New York," she said, "I was teaching in a large university system. I knew I needed to move to a smaller school when at one point the students were required to put Social Security numbers on their exams, and no names.

"Students here know we have an open-door office policy. They can come in and discuss anything. The intimate relationship in the classroom encourages them to come and discuss the course or get to know the professor personally. It is not at all unusual at Lebanon Valley for students to be invited to dinner at a faculty home. And they probably get much better advice regarding their career goals because their professors know them as individuals. Sometimes students just need a sounding board and the faculty here serves that purpose."

The adjustment to a small school was not difficult for her. "I was brought up in a small town on Long Island. Manhattan was always there. As far as I am concerned, it is all in attitude, and New York is still just a short drive away."

Her husband had to make a different sort of adjustment. When Heffner accepted a teaching position at LVC, he was coming home. Heffner received his undergraduate degree from Lebanon Valley College in 1968 and had no plans to return to his alma mater. He was working on his Ph.D. at Boston University when the opportunity arose. "My advisor had a sabbatical when I was starting my dissertation, and I knew that if I didn't have someone to see regularly I probably wouldn't get a lot done. I started looking for a job to take while he was on sabbatical. I wrote to Dean Ehrhart and Warren Thompson, chairman of the department here, asking if they knew of anything in the area, and they responded with a job offer."

Heffner was a physics major at Lebanon Valley College. "I had been interested in both philosophy and physics all along," he explained. LVC did not officially have double majors at the time, but I had the equivalent

of a philosophy major by the time I graduated."

"I started graduate work in physics at Boston University and found I didn't like the program. I had gone there with the intention of doing the philosophy of science program in the physics department. My advisor had a joint appointment in the two departments, so it was easy for me to go into the philosophy of science program in the philosophy department instead."

Although physics and philosophy may appear dissimilar, Heffner said, "It is not unusual to have people in physics interested in philosophy. There is a lot of overlapping material. Science and philosophy do intercept—in areas such as ethics, and the concept of the universe. There hasn't always been such a separation between the two disciplines. In fact, many great philosophers were scientists too."

*If you are a teacher you have a duty to let what you know or have learned be known by more people, and one way to do that is to publish.*

*When I was in New York I was teaching in a large university system. I knew I needed to move to a smaller school when at one point the students were required to put Social Security numbers on their exams and no names.*

*Science and philosophy do intercept—in areas such as ethics, and the concept of the universe.*

Heffner is quick to defend the importance of philosophy in a college curriculum. "Students get too little instruction in clear thinking," he said. "And one thing we try to emphasize in philosophy is critical thinking—learning how to reason to a conclusion, learning to know when you have enough evidence to support a conclusion. That is the sort of thing that any student going into a business position will have to learn."

"It doesn't take a lot of effort in a philosophy course to make applications to everyday life. You read a dialogue of Plato, and the people in the dialogue are your neighbors."

The couple sees an increasing appreciation of the value of a liberal arts

education. "Some students coming out with very technical degrees find that their particular area has a sudden glut and that they are not prepared for other things. Many businessmen are telling students they should have as wide a background as possible. Not that they shouldn't prepare for one field or specialization, but it isn't good to prepare yourself too precisely," said Iglesias.

Her husband added, "You have to make a distinction between job preparation and career preparation. Too many people mistake one for the other. They may come out of college prepared to do a job, but very badly equipped to have a career. I try to communicate that difference to students. I hope that we are training leaders, not just people who will find a job."

The couple agrees that the Valley's double major program allows students to combine a more vocational program of study with a major in one of the liberal arts to become a more well-rounded graduate.

"I don't think our mission here, strictly speaking, is to serve only the business community," Heffner said. "I think that the business community should be aware that people have concerns other than a job. Liberal education is also good for the country and the civilization at large."

Working in the same environment and in similar careers does not put a strain on the couple. "We don't talk about school all the time," Heffner said. "Obviously we talk about it to get it off our chests," "But," adds his wife, "we probably talk about it less than if we worked in separate places. We both know what the issues are, so we don't have to rehash them."

Heffner summed it up, saying, "We go through the ups and downs together."

**Mary Lou Kelsey is a freelance writer based in Lebanon.**



# Alumni Chorale to Present Handel's Messiah

This spring, in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the birth in 1685 of George Frederic Handel, the Alumni Chorale will present Handel's complete *Messiah* in three concerts the weekend of May 18, 19 and 20, 1984. Next year the group will perform Johann Sebastian Bach's Mass in B Minor. Bach also was born in 1685.

Founded in 1978 at the request of alumni, the Chorale provides graduates with an opportunity to maintain their ties with the college while serving the community through concerts in area churches.

Professor of Organ Pierce A. Getz '51, director of the chorale, says groups of this type are very uncommon. "Lafayette is the only school I am aware of that has a similar group," he said. Many observers credit Getz himself with the existence of the group. As students, many of the Chorale members were members of the Concert Choir, which Getz has conducted since 1961. Undoubtedly, his skill as a conductor and the talent of his performers have been the essential factors in the success of both groups.

For the Handel concerts the forty-five member chorale will be joined by nineteen of the finest instrumentalists in the region and by four guest soloists from New York City.

The Friday, May 18 concert, co-sponsored by the LVC Women's Auxiliary and the Alumni Chorale, will be held in Lutz Hall at 7:00 p.m. The groups are asking a \$7.50 donation from adults and \$5.00 from students and senior citizens age sixty-five and older.

On Saturday, May 19, the Chorale will perform the *Messiah* in Mahanoy City's Victoria Theater at 7:30.

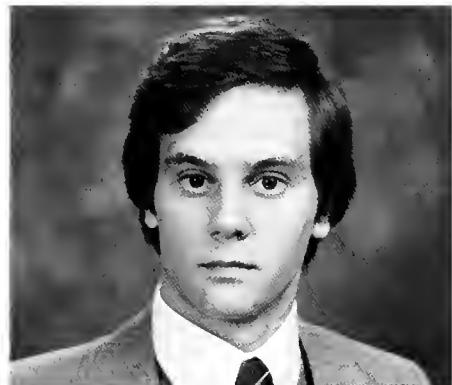
Sunday's concert will be held at 8:00 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg.

# ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS

Thirty-one years ago the Lebanon Valley College Alumni Association endowed a permanent trust fund to provide worthy students a modest scholarship. For twenty years two students annually were chosen to receive \$100 each. In time, the amount of each award doubled, and by 1982 three students, instead of two, received \$200 awards.

This year the Association is increasing the endowment fund on two fronts. The LVC EMPORIUM which appeared in the last two issues of the *LVC Journal* offered pretzels, bologna, and needle-point kits to alumni and friends by mail order. All proceeds from the sale of these items, whose average mark-up is fifteen percent, go to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. More significantly, at their December executive committee meeting, the College's Senior Alumni voted to solicit direct contributions for the fund from all senior alumni. Checks designated for the *Alumni Scholarship Fund* will help the endowment fund grow.

Perhaps a look at this year's three Alumni Scholars is the best way to illustrate why this Alumni Association project is so important.



**Dave Carter** is a young man with no doubts about where he is going. He plans to become a physician. And he is already well on his way. A biochemistry major scheduled to graduate this May with summa cum laude honors, he works on Sundays during the school year and full time during the summer as a laboratory aide at Lebanon's Good Samaritan Hospital.

His goal after medical school is to enter general practice or emergency

medicine, neither of which is among the highest paying of medical specialties. "Oh, I'm not going into it for the money," he says, "I'll be happy if I make enough to pay back my loans. The nice thing about medicine is that it lets me combine science with service."

Dave has gotten a head start on a service career as president of Beta Beta Beta (biology honor society) for 1982-83 and as president of Alpha Phi Omega (national service fraternity) last semester. He also finds time to serve as leader of the Jazz Band's saxophone section.

He is confident of his preparation for medical school. "Graduates have told me that you're well prepared here," he says. "Also, the college has a good track record of getting people into medical school. That's one reason I came here."



**Alison Daubert**, a senior elementary education major from Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania, is less certain about her career path than is Dave. She is torn, she says, between teaching and the ministry. Having student taught fifth grade last semester at Palmyra Elementary School, she is looking for teaching jobs in Lebanon County, but also has applied to Gettysburg Seminary.

Alison, the fourth of seven children, is devoted to her family, whom she manages to see at least once a week. "My parents have a dream," she says, "of putting all seven of us through college, and they've done it with the first four. We all recognize and appreciate the sacrifices our parents have made for us, so we all help each other get through [college]."

For Alison, getting through has meant taking some typical college student jobs including working in the college dining hall and, in the summer, as a clerk typist. But it has also meant at least one

unusual summer work experience—hanging defeathered chickens in a poultry factory. "It wasn't too pleasant," Alison says, "but jobs like that make you appreciate a college education." Her father, Harlan A. Daubert '49, is the band director at Northern Lebanon High School, and her sister, Suzanne Daubert Fox '77, is an elementary school teacher in Lebanon.



Like Dave Carter, **Bob Schaeffer** knows precisely what he wants to do when he graduates from LVC this spring. But unlike Dave, Bob does not feel a pull to continue being a student. Instead, he wants to become a teacher.

Last semester Bob student taught ninth and tenth grade history at Annville-Cleona High School. "I've always wanted to be a teacher, and my student teaching experience just confirmed my decision," he said. "I just know that teaching is what I am supposed to do." Bob says he would like to teach in the area and has sent letters of application to schools in Lebanon and Lancaster Counties.

Like the other two recipients, Bob, a native of St. Clair, Pennsylvania, has made his way through college by working. His job was off campus, at the Weis Market in Lebanon, where he worked twenty to twenty-five hours a week.

"I didn't have much time to get involved in activities on campus," said Bob. Asked if he found study time scarce, he said, "Oh, no, I'm a morning person, so I used to study early in the morning. It's very quiet in the dorms then."

This year, he is living in Palmyra with a family from the First Evangelical Congregational Church, where he is the youth director. And, he says, morning is still his favorite time to study.

# Hershey Executive Receives Founders' Day Award

Harold S. Mohler, chairman of the executive committee and former president and chief executive officer of Hershey Foods Corporation, received Lebanon Valley College's fifth annual Founders' Day Award on February 28 in Miller Chapel.

In accepting the award, Mohler mentioned that he had been a friend of the late Frederic K. Miller, after whom the building is named.

Mohler, a Hershey resident and native of Ephrata, was chosen for the award in recognition of his role in transforming the locally based firm into a multinational food products manufacturer and for his community service performed in the spirit of the founders of LVC.

Mohler began his career with Hershey Foods in 1948, one week after graduating from Lehigh University with a degree in industrial engineering. In 1958, he was named assistant to the president. From there, he became a director, then vice president, and finally, in 1965, president and chief executive officer. During the ten years he served in that capacity,

Hershey Foods grew into a multinational corporation, quadrupling its sales and stockholder equity.

Although involved with business on an international scale, Mohler has continued to participate in community service on the local, regional and state levels. In addition to serving as chairman of the board of the Tri-County United Way, he is an elder of the Derry Presbyterian Church and past chairman of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce and Pennsylvanians for Effective Government.

Mohler, who officially retired from his post at Hershey Foods on March 1, was recently named co-chairman of "Partners in Progress," a cooperative effort of five Harrisburg area Chambers of Commerce designed to attract new jobs, business and industry to the area.

Guest speaker Gilbert Nurick, Esquire, Of Counsel, McNees, Wallace and Nurick, Harrisburg, addressed the topic, "Let's Salute the Real Founders." Nurick emphasized the signal contribution of Chief Justice John Marshall,

who although not one of the first generation of founders, served with distinction in the second generation of national leaders, especially in his concept of the supremacy of the federal government.

In one of his first official appearances, new President Dr. Arthur L. Peterson presided over the program and the luncheon which immediately followed. At the luncheon, Mohler was toasted and roasted by coworkers and family members, and by Dr. Bertha Blair, an honorary member of the LVC Board of Trustees, who remembered Mohler as a child in Ephrata. Also introduced were Vernon Bishop, president of Lebanon Chemical Company and winner of the 1981 Founders' Day Award, and Mrs. Frederic K. Miller, widow of Lebanon Valley College's twelfth president.

*Left, President Arthur Peterson presents 1984 Founder's Day Award to Harold Mohler. Right top, Dr. Bertha Blair, Honorary Trustee, LVC.*

*Right bottom, William Dearden, Chairman of the Board, Hershey Foods Corporation.*



Bruce Correll, recently chosen to replace retiring registrar Ralph Shay, is already in full swing computerizing the registrar's office in preparation for September registration.

Correll said, "We are going to modify the current registration system to take advantage of the College's computer facilities. The streamlined system will reduce frustration and cut down the red tape for student, faculty and staff."

Also, said Correll, his office will be handling registration for continuing education students to offer those students better services.

The way the office has operated, said Correll, "was a very efficient and well organized operation. But it relied strictly on manpower and hours and hours of reviewing the same cards." Computerization will allow quicker access to information and will make analysis of data much simpler. "Once we're computerized, we will be able to use the data base to make accurate enrollment projections and scheduling suggestions. It will allow us to more easily project the number of sections and size of classes to aid departments in determining

scheduling and the staffing of the schedule," he said.

The computerization of the registrar's records will also provide what is currently a missing link in the College's computerized records. The admissions office keeps computerized files on prospective students, and the alumni and development offices store information about graduates on computer. Until now, only the business office has used computerized student records. Now, said Correll, a student's file will be transferred from admissions to the registrar's office when he enrolls and from the registrar's office to the alumni office when he graduates. Because the transfer can be accomplished without re-entering the data, he said, the chances for error are greatly reduced. Certain information, such as grades, will not be transferred to the alumni office. That information will remain in the registrar's office as part of the College's permanent records.

Perhaps the most significant result of the computerization, however, will be the changes it will bring about in the

registration process.

"This fall," said Correll, "we will basically be doing a double registration—doing it the old way and the new way simultaneously—to make sure the new system works. By registration for second semester, we will be completely switched over. All transcript information, grades and master course lists will be on the computer."

"After next September, we will still have an arena situation like we have now, but not all students will have to go through." In fact, he predicts "eighty-five percent of the students will have received their final schedules at pre-registration. Those students who do go through registration will find "a more even pace, so there should be no lines and no frustration."

Correll, who has coached lacrosse and taught at Lebanon Valley College since 1972, earned the B.S. and the M.Ed. degrees from Bowling Green State University. Prior to his appointment as registrar, he had been an assistant professor in the physical education department as well as head soccer and lacrosse coach. He also directed the College's intramural program. He plans to continue to coach the lacrosse team despite his new, increasingly hectic schedule.

## New Registrar Expect To Streamline Registration



# Don Byrne: Teacher and Folklorist

by Kathleen Thach

What is a Roman Catholic doing as chairman of the religion department at a United Methodist college?

For one thing, Dr. Donald E. Byrne, Jr. is enjoying a reputation among students as one of the best loved and most highly respected professors on the Lebanon Valley College campus. In fact, one can hardly mention his name without evoking a positive response from students. "Super." "Really friendly." "A neat person." "Interested in students." The list goes on and on as students describe the professor who "knows how to make learning interesting."

Karl Gerlott, a junior religion major, knows from personal experience Byrne's sensitivity to students. "Last year I was at a low point," he says, "and I wasn't participating in class discussion like I usually did. Dr. Byrne asked me after class one day if I had time to talk in his office. He took the initiative to talk to me and to try to help. That really made an impression on me."

For another thing, Byrne is enjoying increased recognition both on and off campus for his extensive research into the relationship between folklore and religion.

On campus, in addition to teaching Christian ethics, religion in America, introduction to religion, and other courses one would expect to find in a liberal arts and sciences college, Byrne also teaches a course entitled "American Folk Religion." Byrne believes it to be one of only three or four such courses in the country.

Most students in the folklore class are surprised to learn "the folk" of folklore are not restricted to rural and/or primitive peoples.



Folk religion and religious folklore, Byrne emphasizes, are found in urban and rural areas, among the highly and poorly educated, in fundamental, independent and mainline churches.

Off campus also, Byrne has come to be considered an expert in the area of religious folklore. When Charles Scribner's Sons recently began to solicit experts to contribute articles for their forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Religion in America*, they chose Byrne to write the section on "Folklore and the Study of American Religion," which is, Byrne explains, "a theoretical and illustrative article surveying the field as it stands today." Byrne has written a number of articles for such publications as *Church History*, *Pennsylvania Folklore*, *Journal of American Folklore* and *Journal of Popular Culture*. He also wrote *No Foot of Land: Folklore of American Methodist Itinerants* (American Theological Library Association Mongraph Series, No. 6).

In addition to enjoying Byrne as a person and a teacher, his students respect him for his on-going love of study. "I enjoy having specific projects to work on," Byrne acknowledges. "I come early to my office (in Miller Chapel) three mornings each week to work on the research and writing."

Born in 1942 into a traditional Irish-German family in St. Paul, Minnesota, Byrne was educated in Roman Catholic schools and for a time seriously considered becoming a priest, a goal his family encouraged. After graduating from St. Paul Seminary and Marquette University, he entered a doctoral program at Duke University. There, a long-standing avocational interest in American folk music flowered into a vocational interest and, professionally speaking, headed him into Methodism.

Having begun doctoral studies in the broad area of religion in America, Byrne narrowed down his interest to folk and popular religion, specifically religious folk music in early American history.

He began searching for information on the Singing School Movement, a religious folk musical expression based on the "shape note" tradition, which used variously-shaped notes rather than key signatures to, as Byrne says, "locate your fa, sol, la's."

"I ran on a dry well for six months," Byrne says matter-of-factly as he recalls his early research. "Then, through serendipity," he continues in a lighter tone of voice, "I discovered a wealth of interesting material on the Methodist itinerant preachers of the nineteenth century."

Not unlike the early Puritan settlers in America, Byrne explains, these Methodist itinerants and converts sometimes kept written records of God's dealings with them. From time to time they consulted their "diaries" to track their progress and, as necessary, to correct their ways. A significant number of such diaries, Byrne learned, found their way into biographies and autobiographies.

"I was looking through an autobiography one day," Byrne remembers, "and it suddenly dawned on me that I was reading the same conversion story I had read three volumes ago. Only this time the story was told in a different context. Then I recognized the same pattern in anti-alcohol, or temperance, stories—spontaneous combustion of drunkards." (Byrne's tone of voice doesn't change, nor does his face betray the humor of his description.) He continues, "I suddenly realized I was finding folklore everywhere."

Byrne redirected his research, tracing these stories as they recurred in legends, sermons, myths, histories, fables and jestbooks. As he did, he began to realize that the Methodist heroes, humor and remarkable providences in the form of prophetic dreams, answered prayer, sudden judgment on sinners, and miraculous escapes from peril had indeed helped shape the character of American religion and, therefore, were a lively source of religious history. He consequently re-focused his doctoral thesis and titled his dissertation, "The Methodist Itinerant Folklore of the Nineteenth Century with Particular Reference to Autobiographies and Biographies."

Through his extensive knowledge of religious history, Byrne recognized the

lore he had stumbled upon as a unique blend of Protestant literalism about the Bible, the preaching mode of communication, Methodist idealism and the American frontier spirit.

Byrne emphasizes both in his classes and in his published articles the relative permanence of folklore. There was a time, he says, when folklore enthusiasts felt compelled to write everything down for fear it would never be heard again. Folklore, however, has endured for centuries through oral tradition.

For something to be classified as folklore, Byrne goes on to explain, it must have circulated traditionally in varying versions (either orally or by customary example) among members of a group sharing at least one of such common factors as language, geographic locale, religion—or even family. Today, he explains, family traditions are gaining credibility as sources of folklore. He recalls two stories which circulated in his own family and, he says, had wider circulation as well. "Oh," he adds before beginning their narration, "these are true stories . . . more or less."

The first, he says, comes from the Irish paternal side of the family and uses humor in dealing with death. *"It seems my grandfather was in Ireland at a wake held—as was customary—in the home of the deceased. The poor fellow apparently had been unfortunate enough to die in a sitting position and had been dead for some time before they found him. So, by the time they got to him, of course, rigor mortis had already set in; they had to lay him out on the cooling board and tie him down with ropes. Several family members sat up all night in the "wake watch" and, to pass the time, you might say, they engaged in a little card playing and drinking. Well, it seems at some point someone cut the ropes three-quarters of the way through without anyone noticing. During the night the body strained against the ropes as the gas built up, and along about three or four in the morning, the ropes gave way. As they did, the gas pressured out into a loud "AHHHHH" and, we're told, there were hasty exits*

*leaving three more doors in the house.”*

Then, he says, there's the story from the German maternal side of his family, a story of two kinds of Germans.

*“The Schwabs were very, very STUPID And the Ploddeich had huge, HUGE feet. Well, one day war broke out between the STUPID Schwabs and the Ploddeich with the HUGE feet. The Schwabs shot and killed all the Ploddeich, but the HUGE feet kept the Ploddeich from falling over. Now the Schwabs didn't know this (they were so STUPID), so they concluded the Ploddeich were immortal, and they lost the war.”*

Byrne remembers the latter story having been used during parental arguments, apparently to drive home a point. He adds, “If we can understand the function such folklore plays in families, we can then understand how it functions in larger units of society, including religion.”

For something to be classified as folklore, Byrne explains further, it must also have anonymity of authorship, time and place; and it must serve a function in society. Proverbs, a very popular genre of folklore, he says, teach moral lessons. Because of their pithiness and anonymity, they seem to “speak from the accumulated wisdom of generations.”

Similarly, Byrne says ghost stories, babysitter stories and lovers' lane stories are all told to prevent certain unwise or immoral behavior in those who hear them. Folklore, he believes, offers a parallel ethical system to that of religion, sometimes, but not always, agreeing with it.”

Byrne found the Methodist stories of God's intervention through extraordinary providences to be especially significant in the study of folklore as a sub-discipline within religious studies. Their function was primarily to “witness” for

the purpose of leading to conversion. But Byrne's research also revealed that the nineteenth century itinerant preacher was not delivered supernaturally from all hardship. Folklore in the form of humor served to make their lives and work more tolerable, more human. As ministers traveled rugged frontier trails en route to conferences, they often exchanged humorous anecdotes of territorial appointments, of their horses, of travel, of accommodations and possessions, of misquoted scriptures, of sleepers in the congregation, and of attempts at collecting marriage and funeral fees—or their own salaries.

One new bridegroom, according to such lore, failed to pay the itinerant minister for performing the wedding ceremony. Some months later when encountered by the itinerant, who brought up the matter in a tactful manner, the groom cried out, “Sir, if you will only undo that ceremony, I'll pay you a double fee right now.”

These stories also served frequently as sermon illustrations. Through humor, the ordinary yet difficult experiences of everyday living become endurable, and ministers were able to establish rapport with their flocks. “Through religious humor,” Byrne observes, “individuals seem better able to adjust to the incongruities and absurdities of the human situation.”

“Perhaps,” he adds, “it's a matter of laughing to keep from crying.”

Byrne's encounter with the rich oral tradition of the Protestant faith stimulated his interest in researching folklore found in Catholicism. While the Protestant faith is frequently communicated through verbal lore, the Catholic faith finds expression in more lore classified as “partly or non-verbal.” The heroes of the Methodist tradition have their counterparts in the statues of the Roman Catholic Church, for example. “Both appeal to the imagination but through different sensory media,” he explains.

Byrne's research into Catholic lore led him to the coal regions of Pennsylvania where he observed fifteen ethnic-religious festivals. One such Italian-Catholic festival has been held in the

Italian community in Berwick every summer since 1910 in celebration of the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. These festivals, Byrne notes, keep alive a Catholic folk piety still practiced in the home regions of the early immigrants. With acculturation, however, the festivals change as the community changes. Many festivals have become, therefore, a combination of traditional Italian religious folk festivals and American carnivals, with the church hierarchy and the festival organizers often disagreeing on how much of a role that Church should continue to play in festivals.

Byrne's students learn from more than Byrne's research and texts, however. They are required to conduct research of their own, research which often brings them face to face with the origins of many of the presuppositions and biases from which they operate, Byrne notes. “As they recognize these origins,” Byrne adds, “they see they have the choice of continuing in the same direction or selecting a different way to go.”

As for Byrne, he views the study of folk and popular religion as an important addition to the study of doctrines, theology and creeds, because folklore makes religion more concrete. “We learn through the study of folklore how religiosity functions rather than merely how it should function,” he says.

“Folklore,” says Byrne, “is more than a collection of meaningless quaint practices co-existing with religion. Rather, it is a valid tool for understanding religion, a reflecting light that makes the approximation of truth more nearly possible than does the mere pursuit of truth in the confines of reason alone.”

**Kathleen Thach is a publications assistant at Lebanon Valley College and a freelance writer.**

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Vice President for College Relations

**LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE**  
Annville, Pennsylvania 17003 (717) 867-4411, ext. 224

## **CALENDAR**

### **Organizations and Special Concerts**

- April      15    College Chorus and Symphony Orchestra Concert, 8:00 p.m.  
             29    SAI All-American Concert, 2:00 p.m.  
             29    Sinfonia Rovers Memorial Concert, 7:30 p.m.

### **Student Recitals**

- April      24    John Overman, organ, 7:00 p.m.; Mary Jane Beazley, voice, 8:00 p.m.  
             26    Andrew Grider, tuba; Rosalie Koch, clarinet, 8:30 p.m.  
             30    Laura Fowler, voice; Mark Wagner, piano, 8:00 p.m.

### **Senior Recitals**

- April      17    Margaret Faull, piano, 8:00 p.m.  
      May      1    Carol Harlacher, organ, 8:00 p.m.

### **Musicals**

- July      12-14   Cole, 8:00 p.m., Dinner Theater  
             15    Cole, 3:00 p.m., Dinner Theater  
      August   9-11   Gypsy, 8:00 p.m., Dinner Theater  
             16-18   Gypsy, 8:00 p.m., Dinner Theater  
             12 & 19   Gypsy, 3:00 p.m., Dinner Theater

### **Golf**

- April      17    Gettysburg, 1:00 p.m. A  
             23    Widener, 1:00 p.m. A  
             26    Wilkes, Scranton, 1:00 p.m. H  
             27    Philadelphia Textile, 1:00 p.m. A  
             29-30   MAC Championships A  
      May      2    Western Maryland, 1:00 p.m. H

### **Track**

- April      18    Juniata, 3:00 p.m. A  
             26    Messiah, 3:00 p.m. A  
             27    Penn Relays, 9:00 a.m. A  
             28    Muhlenberg, 1:00 p.m. A  
      May      4-5   MAC Championships A

### **Baseball**

- April      16    Ursinus, 3:00 p.m. H  
             18    Gettysburg, 1:00 p.m. A  
             23    Western Maryland, 1:00 p.m. A  
             24    Elizabethtown, 3:00 p.m. H  
             29    York, 1:00 p.m. H  
      May      1    Albright, 3:30 p.m. H

### **Softball**

- April      16    Western Maryland, 3:30 p.m. A  
             28    Moravian, 1:00 p.m. H  
      May      1    York, 3:30 p.m. H

### **Men's Lacrosse**

- April      18    Gettysburg, 3:00 p.m. A  
             25    Widener, 3:30 p.m. H  
             28    Fairleigh Dickinson, 3:00 p.m. H

### **Women's Lacrosse**

- April      16    Western Maryland, 3:30 p.m. A  
             18    Gettysburg, 3:30 p.m. H  
             24    Johns Hopkins, 3:30 p.m. A  
      May      1    Cedar Crest, 4:00 p.m. A

### **Other Events**

- April      27-29   14th Annual Spring Arts Festival, all day  
      May      13    Baccalaureate Services, 9:00 a.m.  
             13    115th Annual Commencement, 11:00 a.m.  
      June      8-10   Alumni Weekend

### **Art Exhibits**

- March 25—April 22   Bill Horst, pen and ink drawings  
      May 1-22   Kris Nuschke, etchings

## **Fourteenth Annual Lebanon Valley Spring Arts Festival April 27-29, 1984**

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Outdoor concert on Saturday, April 28 at 1:30 p.m. of Handel's "Royal Fireworks Music," conducted by David Bilger with the original instrumentation to mark its 235th anniversary.

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